

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-19 will remain pending in the present application.

In the instant amendment, claims 1-19 have been amended in accordance with the U.S. patent practice. For example, pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion on the telephone on October 27, 2008, claim 6 has been amended to remove multiple and improper dependencies by rewriting the claim in the independent claim format, while incorporating the features of claims 1 and 7. Thus, the instant amendment made herein to the claims does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed.

Accordingly, proper consideration of each of the pending claims is respectfully requested at present, as is entry of the present amendment.

Conclusion

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno (Reg. No. L0053) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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